

community-based, not-for-profit

*At John Muir Health,  
we feel honored to be  
part of so many families'  
journeys in welcoming  
new life into this world.*

—Jane Willemsen  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
JOHN MUIR HEALTH



Mike Thomas, President and CEO of John Muir Health, speaking during the 10th annual *Celebrate John Muir Health!* gala.

## BRIEFINGS

# A Wish Upon a Star—Come True!

## Gala Raises \$1.6 Million for Birth Center Transformation

John Muir Health's annual premier fundraising event raised a remarkable \$1.6 million to benefit the Birth Center and is a testament to the community's commitment to enhancing health care services for growing families in Contra Costa and surrounding communities.

In a spectacular event that will be etched in the memories of attendees, the 10th annual *Celebrate John Muir Health!* gala took place on Saturday, November 4, at the Concord Jet Center—generously provided by Jean Hofmann and Lisa Hofmann. Upon arrival, guests were transported into the pages of a children's storybook and guided through the enchanted forest and fairytale castle, where they enjoyed the whimsy of this year's theme, *Wish Upon a Star*.

Mike Thomas, John Muir Health President and CEO, made a significant announcement to kick off the event. After generously donating \$15 million to the Campaign to Conquer Cancer in 2022 and issuing a \$10 million

challenge grant, which was met in 2023, the Hofmann Family Foundation's combined gift of \$25 million was the largest ever received by John Muir Health. This transformational gift has established the UCSF-John Muir Health Jean and Ken Hofmann Cancer Center.

John Muir Health stands as a shining star in aiding families as they walk a cancer journey or welcome new life into the world. The gala brings together individuals who recognize the invaluable service provided by John Muir Health and who are dedicated to supporting its mission.

As the community expresses its gratitude for the success of the 2023 *Celebrate John Muir Health!* gala, it is evident that the impact of this event extends far beyond the glamour of the evening. It symbolizes a shared commitment to building a healthier and more vibrant community, where the arrival of new life is celebrated with first-class health care services and unwavering support from the community.

## MESSAGE FROM GALA CO-CHAIRS



**Margie Murphy**  
CO-CHAIR

**Angie Coffee**  
CO-CHAIR

On Saturday, November 4, under the twinkling stars at the Buchanan Field Airport in Concord, we came together for an extraordinary evening of magic, generosity, and celebration at the annual *Celebrate John Muir Health!* gala. This year's event, themed *Wish Upon a Star*, was a testament to the enchanting spirit of giving—all in support of the John Muir Health Birth Center.

The highlight of the night was the overwhelming success in raising \$1.6 million in support of the Birth Center—ensuring that it continues to provide exceptional care and support to patients and their families. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every one of you who played a role in making this remarkable contribution possible.

The culinary delights served at this year's event were truly enchanting! Attendees were treated to a sumptuous castle feast, followed by a dessert depiction of Snow White's apple—a delightful combination of green apple compote and gingerbread mousse that left taste buds spellbound.

More than just an opportunity to come together for an elegant evening, the gala served as a celebration of philanthropy and the incredible impact it has on health care.

For those who were unable to join us, we invite you to savor the essence of the evening captured in this Spring edition *GiveHealth* newsletter. Within these pages, you'll find glimpses of the gathering and the spirit of generosity that prevailed throughout the night. As we reflect on the evening, we are reminded that together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of individuals and families in our community. Thank you for being an essential part of the John Muir Health family and for making the *Celebrate John Muir Health!* gala a resounding success.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Margie and Angie



# celebrate

## JOHN MUIR HEALTH!

# Wish Upon a Star

John Muir Health Foundation Gala Committee

Angie Coffee, Co-Chair  
Margie Murphy, Co-Chair  
Patty Garaventa  
Kim Helgans  
Randy Pike  
Margaret Simor  
Wendy Thomas



Scan the QR code to access  
inspiring video stories from  
two Birth Center families  
that showcase the profound  
impact of your support.

# 2023 Gala | Wish Upon a Star



We could not be more excited to support John Muir Health's expanding Birth Center. We experienced excellent and compassionate care when our daughter, Raegan, was born!

— Shyler Ackley and Lauryn Coit Ackley



John Muir Health is a vital asset. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have such an exceptional and world-class Birth Center right here in our community.

—Amein and Jeneffer Punjani



We are honored to support John Muir Health's Birth Center as it strives to foster well-being within our growing communities.

— Maggie and Alex Mehran





## n Saturday, November 4

donors of John Muir Health were treated to an enchanted evening at the 10th annual *Celebrate John Muir Health!* gala. This year's event was a tremendous success—raising \$1.6 million in support of the John Muir Health Birth Center.

Over the past decade, this event has collectively generated over \$20 million, contributing to vital areas such as pediatric intensive care, cancer services, cardiovascular services, emergency and trauma, neurosciences, COVID-19 relief, and intensive care, in addition to the Birth Center. We express our deep gratitude for the ongoing generosity and support of our community in our endeavors, including battling cancer and ushering new life into the world.



Snow White's dessert



Dominic Seeno, Dan Ashley, Lisa Hofmann



Mike and Wendy Thomas



Christine Chung, M.D.; Grace McGuinness, N.P.; Leanne Mendoza; Tiffany Svahn, M.D.; Gigi Chen, M.D.; Lesley Martin, M.D.



Linda Iannotta and Lillian Simonin





celebrate

JOHN MUIR HEALTH!

10th Annual Gala



# Wish Upon a Star

Thank you for joining us at the  
10th annual gala and for helping us expand  
and enhance the Birth Center.



Greg Quiroga, Auctioneer



Katie Larimer and Hallie Daily



Marilyn and Paul Gardner



Trina Lovercheck, Jack Thompson, Linda Thompson



Adefolaju Ikutiminu and Leslie Gillum, M.D.



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Holly and Vojin Kos  
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Patricia M. Stull  
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Jack and Linda Thompson  
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Jane and Wayne Willemssen

Thank you to all  
2023 gala sponsors  
for your generous support  
of John Muir Health.



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# Live Auction WINNERS

## 1. Van Winkle's fabled firewater

Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own a bottle of Pappy Van Winkle bourbon.

**Winner:** Anne and Kurt Herzog

## 2. In a Land far, far Away

Enjoy a week in Scottsdale, AZ, during MLB Spring Training and watch the San Francisco Giants take on the Oakland Athletics!

**Winner:** Emily Bach and Tom Moglia

## 3. A Royal feast

Enjoy a special hibachi dinner at the home of Wendy and Mike Thomas, President and CEO, John Muir Health.

**Winners:** Janet and Rick Cronk  
Eric Larimer, NORCAL Ambulance

## 4. Whispering Woods and Wine Escape

Enjoy a fabulous stay and round of golf in beautiful Sonoma County at Mayacama!

**Winner:** Anonymous Donor

## 5. Wine for All, and All for Wine

Enjoy a special dinner and wine pairing with former San Francisco Giant Rich Aurilia and Dan Kosta, co-founder of Kosta Browne Wine.

**Winner:** Multiple Winners



celebrate  
JOHN MUIR HEALTH!  
Wish Upon a Star

## 6. Defending the Crown

Enjoy a one-of-a-kind Warriors Theatre Box experience to watch the Golden State Warriors take on the Denver Nuggets!

**Winner:** Larry and Martha Olin

## 7. A Neverland Adventure

Enjoy a private luxury stay and seed-to-table dinner at NewTree Ranch nestled in the redwoods of Healdsburg!

**Winner:** Inez Wondeh

## 8. Vintage Vines and Elixirs

Your glasses will be overflowing with this amazing lot of over forty (40) bottles of wine!

**Winner:** Todd and Kristin Fitch





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## WHY WE GIVE

# A Labor of Love for Donors Holly and Vojin Kos

Holly and Vojin Kos embarked upon their parenthood journey with high hopes. They hired a doula, hoped for a natural birth, and practiced breathing exercises. Despite the occasional worries about what could go wrong with the pregnancy, they felt well-supported and confident in the team of physicians and nurses at John Muir Health's Birth Center.

Holly's excitement grew as she neared her due date, and she looked forward to the day their newest family member would arrive. She and Vojin created a birth plan and expected it would be followed to a T. But things didn't go as planned...

As Holly's labor progressed, she faced unexpected hurdles. Timed contractions led Holly and Vojin to John Muir Health early one morning, but when her labor stalled, she opted to labor at home. Unfortunately, exhaustion set in after almost 48 hours without sleep, and Holly returned to the Birth Center at John Muir Health. This time, though Holly was fully dilated, the baby had not descended enough, and there was more work to be done. With guidance from her

exceptional John Muir Health team and a few strong pushes, Baby Kos made his way into the world!

"After experiencing an overwhelmingly positive delivery at John Muir Health's Birth Center, our perspective shifted from merely viewing it as a birthing location to a place for which we felt immense gratitude," said Vojin. "Our donation was rooted in the desire to extend the positive experience we had to more people undergoing the transformative journey of starting a family. By sharing

our good fortune, we aimed to alleviate the fears and anxieties that individuals might face in a hospital setting, particularly during the profound and emotional process of childbirth."



*Our donation was rooted in the desire to extend the positive experience we had to more people undergoing the transformative journey of starting a family.*